

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

Service led by: Elder Ron Stamboly

Liturgist: Elder Sue Figueroa

We request that you silence all electronic devices **before** service begins.

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Sunday, July 11, 2021

10:30 A.M.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Sue Figueroa

CHORAL INTROIT (2x)

Jesus, We Are Here
Gathering

Words and Music by
Patrick Matsikenyiri

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus, we are here, Je - sus, Je - su ta - wa pa - no, Je - su we are here, Je - sus, we are here, ta - wa pa - no, we are here for you. ta - wa pa - no mu zi - ta re Mam-bo Je - su nyu.' The score includes first and second endings, with a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking at the end.

Chords: D, A, Em/A, D/A, Dmaj7, D, D7, G, D/A, A9, A7, D, Em7/A, D, Em7/A, D.

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

Elder Sue Figueroa

God has accomplished all things through Christ,
So that we might live as God's own children.
Let us give thanks to God
And live for the praise of God's glory.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)**

Elder Sue Figueroa

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy, and live according to it, that we may grow in faith and hope and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*** HYMN #35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Elder Sue Figueroa

Jesus loves us with steadfast tenderness; therefore, let us confess our sins to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Elder Sue Figueroa

Holy God, you call us to be your beloved children and to care for one another, yet we fail to love others and ourselves. Helpless and ashamed, we turn our hearts to you. Forgive us, and then tenderly teach us to stand strong and courageous in the fullness of your love, by the grace and mercy of Christ.

Merciful God, hear now our own personal confessions that we lift up to you in silence.

PERSONAL CONFESSION

Elder Ron Stamboly

In the strong name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Elder Ron Stamboly

According to the riches of his grace, which God has lavished upon us and sealed for us by the promised Holy Spirit, hear this good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

*** THE RESPONSE #633 Praise Ye the Lord (vs. 1)**

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

(Please pass the peace with friends and loved-ones)

ANTHEM

This is Amazing Grace (Phil Wickham – YouTube)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of the living God, seal in us your Word of truth, the gospel of salvation, so that we can faithfully follow and joyfully serve our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is in his name that we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrews 11:4-22

⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks. ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and "he was not found, because God had taken him." For it was attested before he was taken away that "he had pleased God." ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷ By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, ¹⁸ of whom he had been told, "It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you." ¹⁹ He considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead—and figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰ By faith Isaac invoked blessings for the future on Jacob and Esau. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, "bowing in worship over the top of his staff." ²² By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his burial.

Romans 9:30-10:4

³⁰ What then are we to say? Gentiles, who did not strive for righteousness, have attained it, that is, righteousness through faith; ³¹ but Israel, who did strive for the righteousness that is based on the law, did not succeed in fulfilling that law. ³² Why not? Because they did not strive for it on the basis of faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, ³³ as it is written,

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone that will make people stumble, a rock that will make them fall, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

10 Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. ² I can testify that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. ³ For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they have not submitted to God’s righteousness. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

THE MESSAGE

Elder Ron Stamboly

***HYMN #839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—The Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy Abba of our Lord Jesus Christ, who sends the Holy Spirit to help us in our praying, open our senses to your creation and our hearts to the needs of others.

Grant us faith, hope, and imagination to see your vision of the fullness of time when weapons will be crushed by peace, stomachs will be filled by abundant harvests generously shared, and thirsts quenched by pure rain falling from clean skies; diseases will be healed, minds made clear, and bodies made new, so that all things reveal oneness in Christ.

Even now, Abba, empower us by the Spirit to serve Christ in love by sharing your vision and working in the world for which Christ died and rose and prays and is coming to complete

resurrection. We pray these things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to say together...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

THE OFFERING

With grateful hearts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to the God from whom they came.

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #608 Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow**

***THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**

Thank you for filling us with every spiritual grace that we might be a blessing for others. Consecrate the gifts we offer for the increase of your love. May they bring blessing to others and praise to your glorious name. Amen.

***HYMN #93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

BENEDICTION

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ, fill you with every blessing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now, go forth in joy and peace, for you are God's beloved. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go with God
Rom. 8:14
Departing/Benediction

Words and Music by
Isalah Jones, Jr.

The musical score is written in a single system with four staves. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Go with God, Go with God, As you leave this place, go with God. God will direct your way, God will light ev - 'ry day. As you leave this place, go with God." The chords are: F, Bb, Eb, Dm7, G7, Cm, Eb/F, F, Bb, Eb/F, Bb, Bb7/D, Ebmaj7, Cm7, Bb/F, F7, Bb, (Eb/F).

© Copyright 1993 Isalah Jones, Jr. (J)'s Praise Music Company (ASCAP)
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE POSTLUDE

Friendly Reminders!

SPECIAL ANNOUCEMENTS

Rev. Chris will be on vacation from
Thursday, July 8th to Thursday, July 15th*

Today's service will NOT be livestreamed on Facebook.

Seminary student Jennifer Ring will be gracing our pulpit on Sunday, July 18th.

Thursday Congregational Call
Next call will be Thursday, July 22nd at 11 am*

Next Session Meeting, Sunday, August 15th

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Church Office open Monday-Friday, 9am to 1 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesdays at 2 pm

Wednesdays – Bible Study in Fellowship Hall at 11 am

Rev. Chris' Congregational Call
Every Thursday at 11 am

Sunday Bible Study
9:00 am

Session 'in-person' meeting every 3rd Sunday of the month

Divine Worship: In sanctuary and on Facebook Livestream - Sundays at 10:30 am